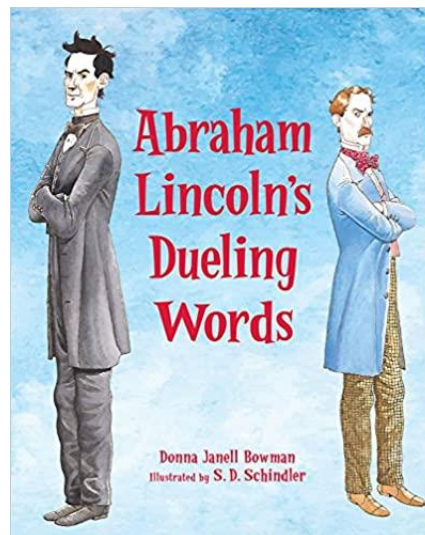


## Second Reaction: Captivating Personal Tales About Abraham Lincoln— Students Will Request This Story Time and Time Again!

Bowman, Donna Janell. *Abraham Lincoln's Dueling Words*. Illustrated by S. D. Schindler. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 2018. Print.

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I loved Donna Janell Bowman's, *Abraham Lincoln's Dueling Words*, for multiple reasons. One reason is that it affords us the opportunity to teach students real-life lessons. By presenting to students how powerful words can be, I believe teachers are able to not only create a deeper love of word learning, but also instill empathy in students of all ages. The illustrations are captivating as well and serve to engage students. Additionally, providing a more personal background into Abraham Lincoln's life is fascinating. This story is most likely one in which many people are unfamiliar. Even in sharing this story with colleagues, a few were shocked as they read.

Are there any reasons I do/do not want to share the book with my students? None at all!

The students and I began with a picture walk. We talked through various images, then moved into a discussion revolving around new words to learn. Most of the students I was working with had prior knowledge of Abraham Lincoln, so they were excited to read this text from the beginning. I read

the text to students in a single sitting as a read-aloud. I stopped every two to three pages and allowed students to ask questions, share insights or talk to a peer. The further we got into the story, the longer the conversations seemed to be. Students were enjoying making predictions and connections, as well as storytelling of their own.

I thought everything flowed very nicely. While there were some Tier II vocabulary words present in the text, I used them as an opportunity to teach students these new words. Students were engaged throughout the entire reading, which is no small feat. This text is a perfect choice right now as we near a presidential election.

My students thoroughly enjoyed not only the story, but also the illustrations. I had a few students make and share personal connections to when they had experienced someone saying hurtful things about or to them. Many were thankful they did not have to duel! A few students talked about other past presidents and asked whether they had similar stories. This could launch a fun follow-up research activity.

I would love to ask students to explore other presidents to see if they can find interesting, uncommon stories about them. There were so many wonderful conversational pieces from this text, I would love to continue that engaged learning and build from it.

### **About the Author**

**Chelsea Bradley** is an Assistant Professor of Reading at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Chelsea enjoys reading, baking and running. She resides in Springfield, MO with her husband and their two fur babies.